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BRIEFER ARTICLES.

The identity of *Asclepias stenophylla* and *Acerates auriculata*.— The Synoptical Flora pertinently suggests the close relationship of these two supposed species. Under *Acerates auriculata* it is even stated that “unless the characters [i. e. of the two genera] are noted, it is very likely to be confounded with *Asclepias stenophylla*.” Even so; for the two plants look to the naked eye exactly alike.

There was, in Mr. M. A. Carleton’s collection of last season in Indian Territory, a plant, no. 248, which is a good *Asclepias stenophylla*, having all the characters of Dr. Gray’s subgenus *NOTHACERATES*. The hoods, however, on comparison with those from herbarium specimens, were found to be longer, more compressed and more deeply notched on the back than usual, and the asclepiadaceous horn, reaching only a little above the sinus of the hood, was not at once found. This and the cautions in the Synoptical Flora led me to examine closely into the structure of anthers and hoods of all the specimens in the National Herbarium standing under the two above names, with the following result.

First, *Asclepias stenophylla* Gray is represented by three correctly named specimens in flower: one from Dorchester, Mo., collected by J. W. Blankinship; the second from Miami Co., Kansas, collected by Dr. J. H. Oyster; the third from Huachuca Mts., S. Arizona, collected by J. G. Lemmon. Mr. Carleton’s no. 248 makes the fourth specimen. Nos. 1 and 2 agree with Carleton’s plant in the compressed hoods and notched anther wings, but both have longer horns than the Indian Territory plant, while Lemmon’s plant has both the notches in the anther wings and the sinus in the back of the hood very slight, and the horn shorter.

Second, *Acerates auriculata* Engelm. is represented by (1) an Arizona plant, Dr. Palmer’s no. 604; (2) a plant collected on the Mexican Boundary Survey under Maj. Emory; (3) Wright’s no. 552; (4) Wright’s no. 1687. Of these, Palmer’s plant has the anthers decidedly notched as in *Asclepias stenophylla*. The crest in the hood is present as in the first species, and reaches nearly to the sinus, but is not surmounted by any horn. In no. 2 there is still a trace of a notch in the anther wing. The crest in the hood is present, reaching over more than half its length. Nos. 3 and 4 have the crest likewise *present*, but the anther wings are merely rounded. They are however fully as wide near the base as near the top, if not wider.

From these observations, and especially when we take into consideration the long acknowledged fact that these two supposed species of

different genera are *exactly* alike in outward appearance, we cannot escape the conclusion that, in fact as in appearance, we have only *one* species. In every case of reputed *Acerates auriculata* crests have been found. The wings of the anthers too have been found to be, if not "decidedly auriculate," at least "dilated," certainly not "tapering at base." All of which characters bring these specimens under *Asclepias*, § NOTHACERATES, provided we allow the following modification of this subgenus.

§ 3. NOTHACERATES. *Anther wings more or less widening to the rounded base, which may or may not be notched or auricled; hood sessile, its apex emarginate or more deeply notched, with a narrow, wholly adnate, internal crest which may terminate above the middle of the hood without a horn, or may be more or less prolonged into a proper horn.*

The projection of this horn above the base of the hood-sinus gives the tridentate appearance mentioned in both the description of *Acerates angustifolia* Decaisne, and that of *A. auriculata* Engelm. I quote, the first from DC. Prodr. VIII, 522: "cucullis gynostegio sublongioribus, apice tridentatis"; the second from Bot. Mex. Bound. 160: "cucullis gynostegio globoso sessili brevioribus apice leviter tridentatis." And as for the stated discrepancy of relative length of anther-mass and hoods, and of the notch in the apex of the hoods, I have, in the material examined, observed all degrees of variation.

The different names of this species, with dates, are as follows:

Polyotus angustifolius Nutt., Trans. Am. Phil. Soc., Ser. 2, v. 201, (1837).

Acerates angustifolia Decaisne, DC. Prodr. VIII, 522, (1844).

Acerates auriculata Engelm. Bot. Mex. Bound. 160, (1859).

Asclepias stenophylla Gray, Proc. Am. Acad. XII, 72, (1876).

There is another species named *Asclepias angustifolia* Ell., Sk. 1, 325, (1821). So the specific name of Nuttall and Decaisne is not available. Engelmann's being the next oldest specific name, this species, it appears, should be named *Asclepias auriculata* (Engelm.).

Since writing the above note there has been found in a collection from Nebraska a plant that represents the *Acerates* side of this species, i. e., with the hoods destitute of horns, but the rudimentary crests present. This is an interesting find, as it makes the two forms practically co-extensive, at least in their northern range.—JOHN M. HOLZINGER, *Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.*

Bartram's Oak.—A long interval has elapsed since the Bartram oak was first made known and still its status has not been satisfactorily determined. Some contend that it is a hybrid. As the oak in question has been found at widely separated localities, although limited to a narrow